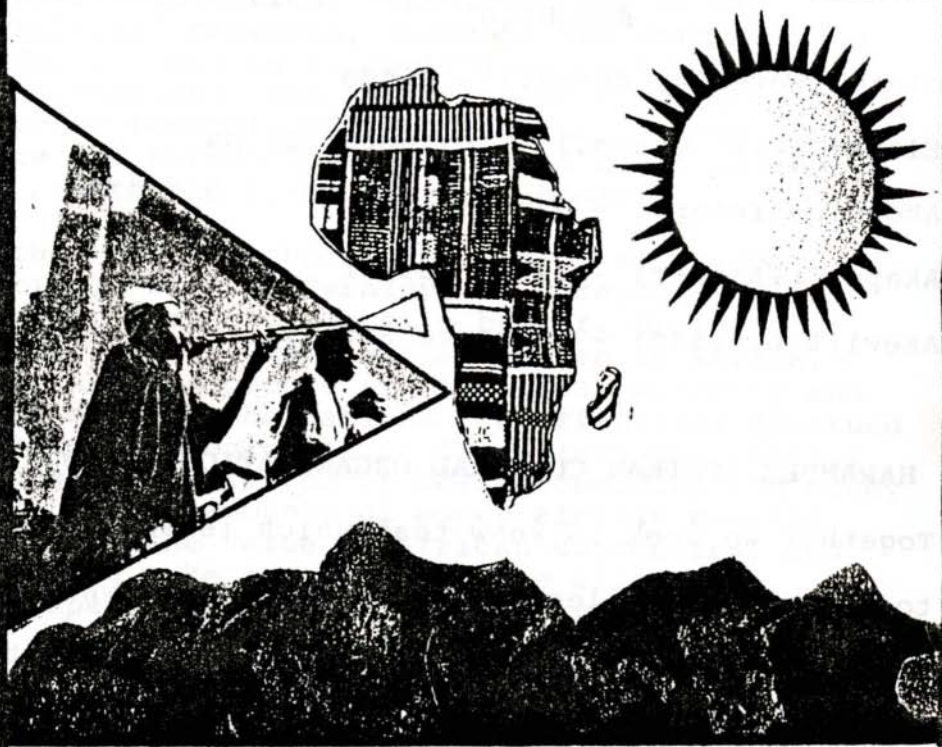
HARAMBEE FLAME

VOL. 15 NO. 11 NOV. 1994



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HARAMBEE AFRIKAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

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HARAMBEE AFRIKAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION CREED

Together we seek to know that which is us, to expand our collective consciousness of who we are and whence we come. We exalt in the fact that Afrikans are beautiful in our own right, rather than at the expense of any other ethnic group. And in the true spirit of the Swahili word, "harambee," we promote the idea that cultural awareness is germane to human growth.

COMMENTARY

Is it true? Are we really not playing with a full deck, relative to Caucasians? This is what Charles Murray tells us, and Shockley, Jensen, and others before them. And aren't these men of science, dudes who are down with research? Surely they know what they're talking about. Besides the studies of brain size, intelligencequotient tests, and the other "scholarly" research, there is the more obvious evidence. Who is in control of world finances and economics? Who is at the main frame of computer technology? Who has put rockets into space and thrust satellites into orbit around the earth and other heavenly bodies?

Whether from the United States(of occupied America), France, Germany, or elsewhere, it is the Caucasian who seems to be "Mr. Brain," "Mr. Top Dog," "Mr. Super Slick." Even in Africa, where African people are the great majority and where most of the nations are **officially** governed by African people, it is Caucasians who control, through manipulation of world commodity and money markets, the amounts of money African exports generate, the value of African currencies, and otherwise make a mockery of the alleged "independence" of African countries.

Could it be that we've been intellectually short-changed by the Creator? If we're historically literate, we can point to the pyramids and other wonders of Ta-Merry(ancient "Egypt"), to the site of the Great Zimbabwe in southern Africa, to the vast libraries and sophisticated university system of Timbuktu in the Middle Ages, and other great accomplishments of our ancestors. Of course, Caucasian "scholars" have answers for these feats. We've heard them: Caucasians or Asians actually did these things or taught the Africans how to do them; there were visits from space-men; some Caucasians back then had Negroid

features. There is another answer, presented in the form of a question: If you blacks did such remarkable things hundreds and thousands of years ago, why aren't you doing them now?

We can cite the scientific, philosophical, and other accomplishments of African people in the modern era--Banneker, Drew, Latimore, McCoy, and innumerable others--only to be told that that these are exceptions and/or that they benefitted from Caucasian tutelage. Those of us who know better dismiss this racist and Eurocentric nonsense for what it is: racist and Eurocentric nonsense. Those of us who don't know better fall into the same kind of silence as those of us who have little or no knowledge of our history.

But if Caucasians aren't intellectually superior to us, what explains their dominance in the world and, more so, their dominance existing side by side with the fact that they constitute less than ten percent of the earth's population? Let's roll the "video tape." The cheetah, fastest land creature there is, runs up to seventy miles per hour to capture a dik dik, a diminutive member of the antelope family. The cheetah finds itself some tall grass to conceal itself and its meal and is constantly peeping the scenery. It eats as fast as possible. Why? Because lions might be on the prowl, and male lions in particular are trifling, would rather steal other beasts' meals than catch their own. And they're aggressive.

If, while the cheetah is feeding its face, a lion approaches, the cheetah breaks camp, leaving its unfinished meal. What accounts for this? Is the lion smarter? Does the cheetah suffer from some kind of animal intelligence deficit? No. The fact that the lion can intimidate the cheetah, forcing it to abandon its meal, has no more to do with intelligence than does the

cheetah's capture of the dik dik. Speed is the key to the cheetah's success. The success of the lion, as both a hunter and a thief, is due primarily to two things: **brute power** and **naked aggression.**

We know what the lion's physical power is owed to: its sheer size and muscle strength and the length of its teeth and claws. While the cheetah is built for speed, the lion is a veritable fighting machine. This, added to its aggressive nature, enables it to be a successful bully.

Returning from the African savannah to the here and now, the same two factors--brute power and naked aggression--that enable lion to be "king of beasts" are those that have allowed Caucasians to become top-dog. Dr. J.(Leonard Jeffries) and a number of other Africentric scholars have done some considerable irritating of Caucasians by putting before the public "ice vs. sun" theory.

According to this theory, Africans(and other people of color), being people of the sun, while Caucasians are people of the ice(meaning that we originated in a warm and friendly physical environment, while Caucasians originated in a cold and harsh physical environment) Africans developed a comparatively "warm" group temperment and Caucasians developed a comparatively "cold" group temperment.

When we say that Africans developed a comparatively "warm" group temperment, we're saying that our early(before invasians by Asians and Europeans) ancestors tended to be peaceful, to view the physical environment and the elements as friendly, and to have a communal attitude in their relations with each other. By comparatively "cold" group temperment, we mean that members of early Caucasian societies tended to be aggressive, to view the physical environment

and the elements as hostile, and to have an individualist attitude in their relations with others.

The differences between these two group temperments were and are much deeper and broad than the above suggests. But the main point of "ice vs. sun" theory is that differences in physical environment accounted for differences in general temperment between Africans and other people of the sun and Caucasians. Michael Bradley(himself, a Caucasian), addressing the issue of aggression, states in CHOSEN PEOPLE FROM THE CAUCASUS: "purely physical adaptations demanded by survival under arctic conditions during the last(Wurm) Ice Age in Europe conflicted with, and partly erased, previous adaptations designed to absorb and displace aggression. The result of this progressive glacial adaptation was that Neanderthal-Caucasoids became increasingly maladapted psychosexually, suffered extremes of psychosexual ambivalence and frustration and **expressed the resultant aggression to a greater extent than peoples of other major genetic groups.**"(Emphasis added)

There is abundant evidence to support Bradley's belief that Caucasians have been more aggressive than other groups of the human races. The real question is whether or to what degree the physical environment is the cause or a major cause of this aggressive trait. Whatever the causes of Caucasians' inclination toward aggressive behavior, obviously they weren't the only people to manifest aggression. The continent of Africa, as societies grew larger and demands on resources became greater, its share of skirmishes and wars. But these were commonly of a ritual sort.

In Mazisi Kunene's essay, "Shaka The Great: Warrior King And Founder Of The Zulu

EDITORIAL POLICY

The HARAMBEE FLAME is the monthly newsletter of the Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization(Nebraska State Pen chapter). Ours is a pan-Africanist publication, meaning that we view all people of African descent as one African people, having certain basic interests in common. Also, the HARAMBEE FLAME attempts to be Africentric, in that, through study of the history, cultures, and traditional values of African people, we seek to have and cultivate an African way of looking at things.

The main purposes of the HARAMBEE FLAME are to stimulate and inform. We list "stimulate" first because, more than anything else, we want our readers to be moved to question their/your own ideas, lives, and the circumstances in which we live and to challenge those things that must be challenged in order for us to move from a condition of mental and spiritual servitude and physical dependence upon Caucasian institutions to a state of collective self-determination. Toward this purpose, we present commentaries, poems, etc. These do not necessarily represent the official positions of the Harambee Afrikan Cultural Organization.

The HARAMBEE FLAME provides information because wise people want to know what's going on and because certain kinds of information can stimulate the mind, inspire people to want to act, and influence them to pursue proper understanding so that the actions they take will be as effective as possible. The main vehicle we use to provide information is our "From Other Sources" feature in which we make an effort to provide news about the problems we African people are confronted by and the steps we are taking to resolve them. In this feature, we try to provide coverage of the activities of African people and developments affecting us in the U.S., Africa, and elsewhere. "Community News" is another vehicle.

We encourage you to submit your reports, essays, poems, etc. Please enclose stamped return envelope.

FROM OTHER SOURCES

The Ghost Of Brown Vs. Board Of Education

"...In the spirit of what "Brown" was meant to do for secondary education, a black father in Mississippi, James Ayers, sued the state in 1975, charging that his son and other black students didn't receive equal opportunities at state-run black colleges. Ayers, who died in 1986, challenged the disparity in financing between black colleges and white ones. The Supreme Court eventually backed Ayers' claims, ruling that Mississippi operates a dual system of education in under-funding historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

Last February, the Mississippi state college board announced its response at a closed meeting to which only the white college presidents had been invited...the board proposed to liquidate two of the state!s three black colleges--shutting down Mississippi Valley State and Alcorn State, while creating a merged 'Delta Valley University' and an 'enhanced' Jackson State...

"Even a cursory look at the campuses gives the lie to tehe state's claims that different 'missions' are behind its annual allocations per student: $3,038 at black colleges, at white colleges, $4,489. The outcome in Mississippi is likely to affect 18 other segregated state systems from Texas to Pennsylvania...

"Nearly **65 percent** of Jackson State freshmen would be ineligible for automatic acceptance if Mississippi goes ahead with its plan to 'standardize' admissions requirements as part of its scheme...

"Mississippi Valley State serves blacks in the Mississippi Delta, the poorest section of the poorest state in the country. Mississippi is home to the highest percentage of black people

nationally. Among black students, 13,000 of 17,000 attend historically black institutions, where admissions requirements are more open. Nationwide, black colleges enroll less than 18 percent of the 1.3 million blacks attending college, yet they award 34 percent of undergraduate degrees. Black colleges were the source for nearly 50 percent of black doctoral students from 1986 to 1992, according to the United Negro College Fund('Emerge', September 1993)..."

-from "Racist 'Desegregation' Scheme Threatens Black Colleges," pages 6 and 10, Oct. 28 WORKERS VANGUARD(N.Y., N.Y.)

'94 Crime Bill And Conflicting African Attitudes

"Black mayors, county officials and police chiefs responsible for public safety overwhelmingly support the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. So do freshmen Black Caucus members. Opposition has come from Jesse Jackson, traditional civil rights groups and the most senior Black Caucus members...

"The new law provides almost $9 billion to put 100,000 more officers on the streets to do community policing and $5.5 billion for youth recreation, employment, drug treatment and other crime-prevention programs. The new ban on 19 semiautomatic assault weapons and copycat models also appeals to local officials. Now banned from sale are the Uzi and Tech-9...

"Opponents look first at apparent discrimination in the criminal justice system and the Black presence behind the nation's prison bars. They see the new death penalty crimes, life sentences and $9.9 billion to build more state prisons as worsening both problems...

"When Jackson toured the South this year to promote Black majority congressional districts,

he confronted intense anti-crime sentiments...Groups of Black mothers have organized to raise their voices against violence. A survey by the think tank, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, also shows nearly half of African-Americans support the death penalty, despite racial disparities on death row.

"'They're fed up. They're no longer looking at African-Americans who are committing crimes as brothers and sisters', Newark's Mayor Sharpe James says. 'They're looking at them as criminals'...

"...Republicans initially blasted prevention programs authorized in the crime bill as 'social welfare' and 'pork'. Both can be racial code words. The programs formed the basis of an alternative Black Caucus bill, which was largely incorporated into the House version. To win over moderate Republicans, Democrats did trim the prevention package by $1.5 billion and rolled $40 million for midnight basketball into a $380 million block grant program. There would have been no federal funding of midnight basketball if Black opponents to the crime bill had their way...

"The new anti-crime law makes about 60 federal offenses punishable by death. Among those capital crimes, Black men are most likely to get charged for major drug trafficking that does not result in death, as well as carjackings and drive-by shootings that do...

"In both state and federal cases, racial justice protections would have allowed a capital defendant to use evidence of statistical disparities to challenge a death sentence as racially discriminatory...

"The racial justice protections were doomed by opposition from more than a dozen Southern Democratic senators, despite their large African-

American constituencies...

"With the fight for fairness in the death penalty lost, Congressional Black Caucus members voted 25 to 12 in favor of the crime legislation...

"Kansas City Mayor Emanuel Cleaver II...gives more weight to constituents threatened by crime than the comparatively few affected by a biased criminal justice system.

"'In 1993, there were no African-American Kansas Citians executed by the judicial system. However, 111 Blacks were murdered on our streets. It is as simple as that', Cleaver explained in a newspaper article.

"Freshmen Black Caucus members take a similar view. They also figure that more police, the gun ban and a prevention package out-weigh the tougher sentences..."

-from "Crime And Punishment," pages 42-51, Nov. EMERGE(Arlington, VA.)

Farrakhan Visit To Ghana Riles Some Christians

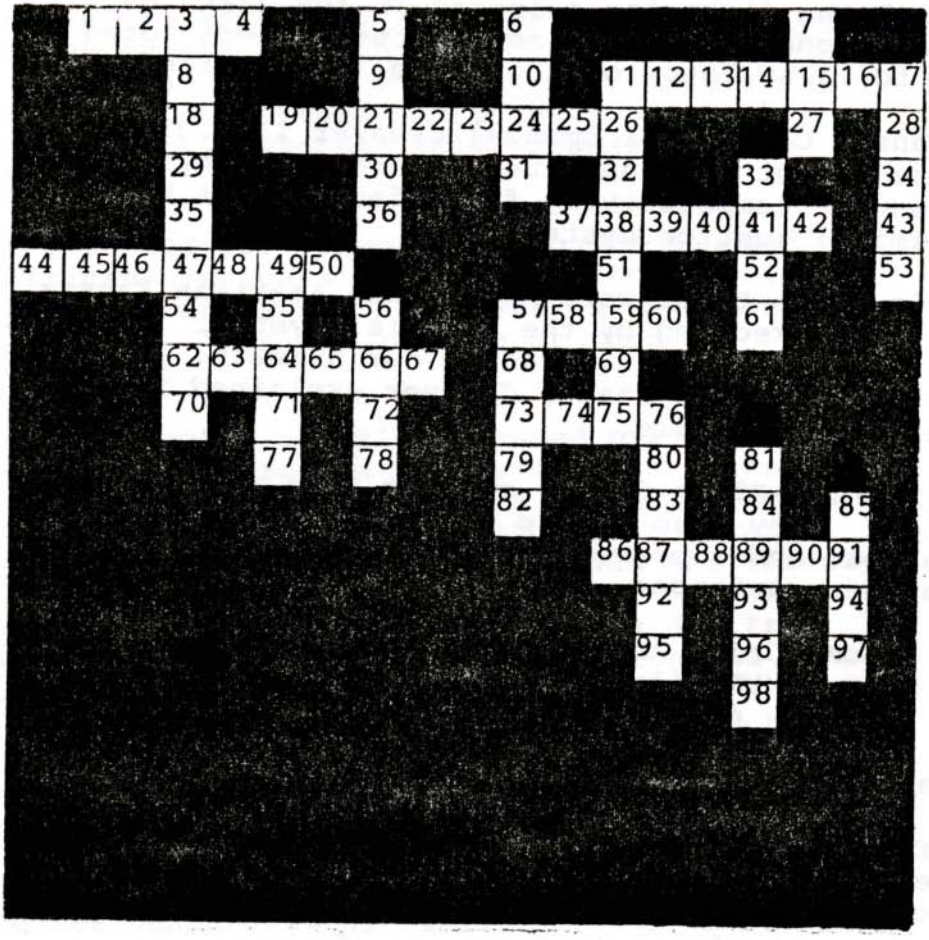
(Editor's note: October 6-9, the Nation of Islam held its first International Saviours Day in Accra, Ghana.)

"Even before the first plane load of visitors touched down on the soil of Africa, the Saviours' Day event was embroiled in a controversy... Caught in the controversy, many of them innocently, was the dominant Christian community whose leadership questioned through the opposition press the intentions of Min. Farrakhan and accused the Nation of Islam of coming to convert people to Islam...

"Veronica Mills-Lamptey, president of the Christian Women's Aglow Fellowship of Ghana, which opposed Min. Farrakhan's coming and joined in

(Cont. on page 13)

HARAMBEE FLAME AFRICENTRIC CROSSWORD PUZZLE #3



Across

1) In the film, "Roots," Kunta Kinte was whipped and otherwise abused in an effort to force him to accept the name _____.

11) _____,which refers to a flood, is the term used to designate the grassroots movement which swept Jean Bertrand Aristide into office in 1991.

19)This spiritual belief system, widely practiced in Cuba, is a blend of traditional African beliefs and rituals and those of Christianity: _____.

37)_____is an acronym for a group of countries in western Africa that have organized for regional economic strength through trade and other means.

44)_____(last name) of Congo was assassinated in 1961. There is very strong evidence that the assassination was directed by or with the cooperation of the C.I.A.

57)Julie Dash's film "Daughters Of The _____" explored the issue of a people's retention of traditional culture in the face of foreign/modern influences.

62)Recent court rulings on majority-African congressional districts in the U.S. threaten to weaken the impact of the 1965 _____ Rights Act.

73)This cut by rap group, Digital Underground, was a stinging commentary about some Africans' rejection of their African identity: "No _____ Job."

86)Bishop George Stallings, in an effort to make Catholicism more relevant and useful to African people, left the Caucasian authority of the Church and established the Imani _____ Movement.

Down

3) THE _____by Charles Murray purports to substantiate the notion that Africans are intellectually inferior to Caucasians.

5) The city of _____, which became part of the Songhay kingdom in 1473, was a great center of learning, where the trade in books surpassed all other domestic commerce.

6) This husband-and-wife team heads Black Think Tank and has authored BRINGING THE BLACK BOY TO MANHOOD and other books:_____(last name).

7) The _____(acronym) was considered to be a para-military off-shoot of the Black Panther Party. Geronimo Pratt is credited with being an operational founder of this group.

11)_____(last name) gave the Catholic Church's approval for the enslaving of Africans in 1517.

17)The Golden _____ was, in pre-colonial times, the symbol of authority AshantiLand.

33)In the middle ages, _____rivaled gold in its importance as a commodity in trans-Saharan trade.

49)In 1957, Daisy_____ led the effort to enroll African youth at Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. Her home was bombed and the newspaper("State Press") she and her husband published was shut down.

56)Kwame Ture(Stokely Carmichael) was head of this organization of young African adults in 1966:_____(acronym).

57)Manute Bol of the National Basketball Association is a member of the _____ ethnic group of Sudan.

76)In traditional African societies, it is commonly the Council of _____ that is the ultimate authority.

81)Written in 1829 to the General Colored Association of Massachusetts, this address, known as "Walker's _____," called openly for a slave revolt.

85)This popular musician from Nigeria plays a style of music alled "high-life Afro-beat" and has often been jailed and otherwise harassed because of his strong political views, often expressed in his music:_____(first name).

the campaign of some Christians who prayed that the Oct. 9 event be rained out, said Min. Farrakhan's message was not welcome in Ghana...

"When asked about the abundance of huge billboards in Ghana showing a depiction of a white Jesus Christ when the Bible describes Christ as a Black man, Ms. Lamptey said race was insignificant.

"But perhaps the most telling example of the reason for opposition to Min. Farrakhan was expressed in a front page article in 'The Watchman' by writer Divine P. Kumah. Hosting the convention will 'get Ghana blacklisted in the books of many sound investors, especially Jews', he wrote..."

-from "Saviours' Day Seals Pan African Vision," pages 2, 3, 7, 8, 34, Nov. 2 THE FINAL CALL (Chicago, IL.)

African Countries Seek To Abolish Trade Barriers

"The first summit meeting of the 22-nation Community for Eastern and Southern Africa(COMESA) will be held in Malawi on December 8 and 9, according to Malawi government officials.

"COMESA, formed last year in Uganda, seeks to abolish all trade barriers among members as part of African moves to set up a continental community along the lines of the European Union after the year 2000."

-from "African Trade Summit," page 14, Oct. 19 THE FINAL CALL

Nation,"(GREAT BLACK LEADERS: ANCIENT AND MODERN, edited by Ivan Van Sertima), it is stated: 'Guided by a strict moral code that limited the scale of physical destruction against the enemy the war code developed many interim stages of ritual confrontation before actual physical fighting...The final stage of confrontation involved the use of the long throwing spear. Should this bundle of spears be exhausted before the enemy gave up then the army would simply flee. The enemy would then declare itself the victor. The enemy made no attempt to pursue the 'defeated' army as this would be considered thoroughly immoral'. Kunene was talking about a particular area in southern Africa. But there is a good deal of historical literature showing that this ritualistic character of warfare was the rule rather than the exception throughout Africa for quite some time.

So, like the lion, Caucasian societies have been inclined toward aggression. But aggression alone hasn't put Caucasians into a position of world domination. The lion is not only aggressive. It has brute power. The difference between the lion and Caucasians in this regard is that the lion gets its muscular bulk and long teeth and claws from its genes. Caucasians had to go out and obtain their "muscles," their "teeth" and "claws."

The Chinese had been using explosives for many hundreds of years. Then, by whatever means, the knowledge of explosives would be acquired in Arabia and eastern Europe. Sometime in the 14th century, Berthold Swarz made use of black powder as a propellant for firearms. The resulting mixture of the firearm and Caucasian aggression would become as volatile as the mixture of saltpeter and sulphur, which formed the basis for gun powder. When we add to this Caucasians' catching sight of gold in Africa and the Americas, spices in the Orient, other natural resources in other peoples' lands, and what history has made clear to us about European greed, we begin

BACK IN TIME

The clergyman Cotton Mather told blacks in Massachusetts that they should give up their "fondness for freedom" and recognize that as slaves they lived better than they would as freemen. And British writers claimed that black slaves, whose needs were met from birth to death by their masters, were better off than the wretchedly insecure English lower classes...These expressions reflected an important assumption that underlay slavery: that some men **by nature** were incapable of maintaining or governing themselves...It was argued that blacks were the product of a separate creation, that they bore in their color the mark of ancient sins, and that they were punished with the need for subordination to higher authority.

Source: ABOLITIONISM: A NEW PERSPECTIVE
by Gerald Sorin

Conclusion of Commentary

to understand how Caucasians have gotten to their current position and why they have been able, thus far, to maintain it.

Editor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Traditional Arts Apprentice Program If you practice a traditional art; that is, one that has been handed down from one person or generation to another within a community, ethnic group, occupational group, or family, you may be eligible to apply for a grant from the Nebraska Arts Council's new traditional Arts Apprentice Program...The grants...are given to help master artists who want to teach the traditional arts and crafts they practice to others within their ethnic groups, communities or families. For additional information, call (402) 595-2122.

African Dance, Music and Drama Kayaga of Africa present a positive and insightful image of African womanhood. From the royal courts of Uganda to the Baluhya of Kenya, from portrayals of youth in South Africa, to waist dances of Zaire, and up the river Nile to the courtship ceremonies of the Banyoro. Through the captivating art of storytelling and rhythms of drumming, they show traditional lifestyles and lives of modern African youth. Contact Britton Management; P.O. Box 16; Miquon, PA; 19452; Tele. no.: (610) 828-7537.

Lemuel Sheppard sings Blues and African American traditional songs. He has just returned from a concert tour of Brazil and is scheduled in Turkey and Greece this spring. The following arts agencies have selected Lem to tour on their artist rosters: International Arts Programming Network, Mid-America Arts Alliance, Kansas Arts Commission, Oklahoma Artists in Residence Program, Kansas City Young Audience. If you are served by one or more of these organizations, you can apply for additional funding to bring Lem to your school or community. For a demo tape or information, write to: Lemuel Sheppard; 305 W. Lindburg; Pittsburg, Kansas; 66762; tele. no.: (316) 231-2379.

ANNOUNCEMENTS CONT.

SANKOFA Written, directed and produced by Ethiopian-born filnmaker Haile Gerima, SANKOFA is a powerful film about **Maafa - the African holocaust.** Done from an African/African American perspective, this story...connects enslaved Black people with their African past and culture...For information about where SANKOFA is showing, please clall Mypheduh Films at (212) 505-1770 or fax your request to (212) 506-1670. If you would like to book Mr. Gerima for a speaking engagement, please contact Ada Babino at (202) 232-4729.

Research Project In South Africa Mr. Eric Lee, a current grad student majdoring in Social Science Education has an opportunity to be a research assistant to Dr. Michael Cheers, a visiting scholar from Howard Univ. teaching Media Ethics, and Topics in South Africa as well an internationally renowned photojournalist and co-editor of **Songs Of My People**, a series of photo essays about African Americans...In April, Dr. Cheers received a fellowship to South Africa. He will be conducting social science research projects. Eric Lee will be assisting Dr. Cheers and doing his own comparative study examining the disparity between the black and white secondary educational system under the former apartheid system. He is seeking financial assistance to cover his air fare to and from South Africa, tuition fees, and living expenses. If you are interested in making a contribution, contact Anneliese H. Cawthon at Wayne State University. The tele. no. is 1-800-228-9972.

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